से नहीं, कि वे कितने मंत्री थे जिन्होंने मुनाफा कमाने वाली कम्पनियों के विनिवेश के खिलाफ बयान दिया और कई बार छपा है जो उन विभागों के मंत्रियों ने दिया है? मैं चाहूंगा कि उसका खुलासा करें।

श्री सभापति: बता दीजिए कि कितनी सरकारें चलती हैं, एक दो या तीन?

श्री अरुण शौरी: सर, जैसे कि मैंने कल भी आपको रिपोर्ट की थी कि गवर्नमेंट में ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री सभापति: सरकार एक ही चलती है।

श्री अरुण शौरी: हां एक चलती है।

श्री सभापति: बात खत्म हुई, यही ये जानना चाहते हैं।

Exploration of Mineral Sand

*58. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:†† Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a project in public sector for exploration of mineral sand of Chavara in Kerala by combining IRE, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and KSIDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether shares of NMDC and IRE have been offered to overseas partners as part of privatization;

(d) whether strategic mineral deposit containing "Thorium" would slip to undesirable hands in future, if NMDC and IRE are privatized; and

(e) how a project producing 'Synthetic rutile' could be started in public sector when NMDC and IRE are under privatization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) have entered into a Memorandum of understanding

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri N.K. Premachandran.

for exploring the possibility of initially setting up a value addition plant near Chavara in Kerala for production of synthetic rutile based on ilmenite produced by Chavara unit of IREL and subsequently an integrated mining, mineral separation and value addition plant. As per the MoU, in the first phase a Synthetic Rutile Plant of about 1,40,000 tons per year capacity by processing the Chavara grade ilmenite produced by IREL is proposed to be set up through a Joint Venture Company (JVC) after detailed market survey, subject to investment decision and securing requisite approvals. The share holding pattern of the JVC is proposed to be upto 26% by IREL, upto 5% by KSIDC and a minimum of 69% by NMDC.

In the second phase the JVC proposes to set up an integrated mining, mineral separation and value addition plant subject to completion of various formalities.

(c) and (d) At present there are no proposals under consideration for privatisation of NMDC and IREL. Under the present regulations, there are adequate provisions for controlling production, use and disposal of monazite.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, my first supplementary is this. First of all, I welcome the proposal of the Government of India to commence a joint venture proposal with the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) to commence a synthetic rutile plant at Chavara.

Sir, last year, the IREL had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Cochin-based company, a private company, to commence the mining and mineral separation of ilmenite and other beach sand minerals in the coast of Kollam in Kerala. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what would be the fate of that Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in the last year in the light of the new joint venture proposal which has been signed in the Global Investor's Meet at Kochi and the announcement of the hon. Prime Minister in the inaugural ceremony of the Global Investors' Meet at Kochi. This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, so far as this particular

Memorandum of Understanding is concerned, I would like to say that it deals with the question of exploring the sea sand where several minerals are available. Previously, it was to be exported for the purpose of getting synthetic materials, but, now, this joint venture agreement explores the possibility of having the synthetic rutile in India itself. That is why we have entered into this particular joint venture.

MR. CHAIRMAN:Question No. 60.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I have to put my second supplementary. Please allow me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate with me. This is the last question.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: All right, Sir.

Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh

*60. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are over 1.5 lakh child labourers languishing in slavery in different parts of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the district administration has set upon the task of identifying and rehabilitating child workers slogging in cement quarries, cotton grading units, etc;

(c) whether any raids were conducted;

(d) if so, the number of children captured during these raids; and

(e) what are the steps being taken by the Government to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) As per the information received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are no such instances. The district administration has been undertaking identification and rehabilitation of child labourers on a continuous basis. Special squads comprising of representatives from school education, labour, revneue and other departments carry out inspections/raids periodically to detect cases of child labour. During the